REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11-16 and 18-29 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1-6, 8-9, 11-16 and 18-29 stand rejected.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Preliminary Matter

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the position of the Examiner's immediate supervisor that language such as "operatively associated" and "being operable to" should be interpreted as a desired result, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 19 to remove reference to this language.

However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the Examiner's immediate supervisor that language such as "spaced apart from" should be interpreted as a desired result. Applicants submit that the phrase "spaced apart from" describes a spatial relationship between two (or more) features of an apparatus relative to each other which helps to define the structure of the apparatus. In claim 1, for example, the phrase "spaced apart from" describes the physical location or position of the heater and the media support relative to each other which helps to define the structure of the media drying system.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Wafler ('059) reference.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly described the features recited therein. Support for this amendment to claim 1 can be found on at least page 6, lines 9 and 10; and page 7, lines 10-12, of the specification and previously presented claim 1. Claim 1 in its current form reads as follows:

> 1. (currently amended) A drying system comprising:
> a media support;
> a conductive path connected to the media support; and

a heater positioned spaced apart from the media support, the heater being connected to the media support through the conductive path.

The Wafler ('059) reference discloses a preheater 16 (Fig. 2; col. 3, line 64). As is evident from Fig. 2 of the Wafler ('059) reference, preheater 16 is not connected in any manner to supply tray 12, feed roller 14, drive roller 30, pinch roller 32, exit drive roll/pinch roll combination 48, or output tray 50. However, preheater 16 seems to be integrated into platen 47. As preheater 16 is integrated into platen 47, it can not be said that preheater 16 is spaced apart from platen 47 or that preheater 16 is connected to platen 47 through a conductive path. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18 depending from claim 1 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Jacobe et al. ('648) reference.

Claim 19 has been amended to more clearly describe the features recited therein. Support for this amendment to claim 1 can be found on at least page 6, lines 9, 10,c and 24-28; and page 7, lines 10-12, of the specification. Claim 19 in its current form reads as follows:

19. (currently amended) A drying system comprising:

a media support having a curved surface;

a plurality of heaters positioned spaced apart from the media support; and

a plurality of heater extensions, each of the plurality of heater extensions being connected to the media support, each of the plurality of heater extensions being attached to one of the plurality of heaters, wherein heat generated by the plurality of heaters is conducted to the curved surface of the media support through the plurality of heater extensions.

The Jacobe et al. ('648) reference discloses that heat is generated within rims 62 and 66 using an induction heating apparatus that includes a work coil 72 and a generator/controller system 74 (col. 10, lines 6-11). As such, it can not be said that heat is conducted to any of supply roll 12, guide roll 14, coating roll 16, guide roll 40, guide roll 44, guide roll 46, guide rolls 52, guide roll 84, or take-up roll 86.

Assume for purposes of this argument that rim 62 is a media support surface for roller 56 and that rim 66 is a media support surface for roller 58 (col. 9, line 60 through col. 10, line 3). Then, the Jacobe et al. ('648) reference discloses that heat generated by the induction heating apparatus is generated directly at the media support surfaces (rim 62 and rim 66). As such, in the Jacobe et al. ('648) reference, there is no need to conduct heat from a heat source to rim 62 and rim 66 because the heat itself is generated within rim 62 and rim 66. Therefore, it can not be said that the Jacobe et al. ('648) reference discloses that heat generated by the plurality of heaters, the plurality of heaters being positioned spaced apart from a media support, is conducted to a curved surface of the media support through a corresponding plurality of heater extensions. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 22-25 and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Suzuki et al. ('912) reference.

Claim 20 has been amended to more clearly describe that an extension is affixed to a support. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 6, lines 27-31 of the specification. Claim 22 has not been amended by way of this paper. Claims 20 and 22 in current form read as follows:

> 20. (Currently amended) A method of drying an article comprising:
>
> providing an extension affixed to a support; and
>
> conducting heat from a source of heat through the extension to a surface of the support, the surface of the support being contactable with the article.

22. (previously presented) A drying system comprising:

a media support having a body portion including a surface contactable with a nonprinted side of a printed media;

a heat conductive extension affixed to the body portion of the media support; and

a heater affixed to the extension at a location spaced apart from the media support.

The Suzuki et al. ('912) reference discloses a drum 10, a transferring device 16, a recording medium 22, guide rollers 24, and a fixing device 26.

Recording medium 22, as shown in Fig. 1, can not be considered a media support surface or an extension affixed to a media support surface because if it was considered either of these, recording medium 22 would not be able to move through the printer.

Transferring device 16, as shown in Fig. 1, is not affixed to any of drum 10, guide rollers 24, or fixing device 26. Although transferring device 16 contacts recording medium 22, transferring device 16 is not affixed to recording medium 22 because if this were so, recording medium 22 would not be able to move through the printer. Furthermore, if transferring device 16 were affixed to any of drum 10, guide rollers 24, or fixing device 26, then components 10, 24, and 26 would not be free to rotate as is required for printer operation.

As shown in Fig. 1, it is also evident that none of drum 10, guide rollers 24, or fixing device 26, are affixed to each other. Again, doing so would interfere with or prohibit independent rotation of components 10, 24, and 26 as is required for printer operation.

Additionally, drum 10 contacts the printed side of the media (col. 5, lines 10-21), so it can not be said that drum 10 is contactable with a nonprinted side of a printed media as is recited in claim 22.

On page 5 of the office action, the examiner states that the abstract of the Suzuki et al. ('912) reference discusses laser beam photoconductive drum heating. However, a review of the abstract reveals that heating is not mentioned. This is because the laser beam discussed in the abstract is used for forming an image on the photoconductive surface of drum 10 (abstract; col. 5, lines 3-15) which is standard practice in a conventional laser printer.

As such, the Suzuki et al. ('912) reference does not disclose the features of claims 20 and 22 as described above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 20 and claim 22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-25, 27, and 28 depending from claim 22 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22.

Double Patenting

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the obviousness type double patenting rejection.

The application described in the specification under the heading "cross reference to related applications" having Serial No. 10/753,245 is related to this application. Although the Examiner has requested Applicants to submit a copy of the related application, Applicants respectfully submit that the related application and its image file wrapper are available using Public PAIR. Accordingly, Applicants are not enclosing a copy of the related application with this response.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Wafler ('059) reference in view of the Hudson ('509) reference.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 1. Claim 15 has been amended to more clearly describe the platen feature. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 5, lines 1-11, of the specification. Applicants consider claims 14 and 15 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 21, 26, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Suzuki et al. ('912) reference.

Claim 21 depends from claim 1. As such, Applicants consider claim 21 patentable for at least the reasons set forth above which state a basis for the

allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 26 and 29 depend from claim 22. As such, Applicants consider claims 26 and 29 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 26 and 29 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 30-34 are presented herein. Claims 30 and 31 depend from independent claim 19. Claims 32-34 depend from independent claim 1. Support for the features described in claims 30-32 can be found on at least page 6, lines 9 and 10. Support for the feature described in claim 33 can be found on at least page 5, lines 15, 16, 26, and 27; and page 6, lines 27 and 28. Support for claim 34 can be found on at least page 6, lines 24-28. Applicants consider claims 30-34 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1 and claim 19. Accordingly, allowance of claims 30-34 is respectfully requested.

Additional Claim Amendments

Claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 16 have been amended in order to provide consistency with amended claim 1. Specifically, the phrase "the second surface of" has been deleted from these claims.

Claim 5 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the feature of "a curved portion of the media support".

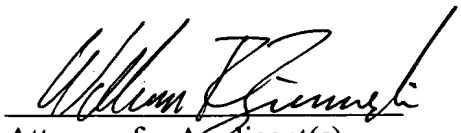
The dependency of claims 11 and 18 has been amended in order to provide consistency with amended claim 1. Accordingly, claims 11 and 18 now depend from claim 33.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.